

# The Oxbow Express

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A St. Lucie County Environmental Learning Center

FALL 2006

## Oxbow Staff

5400 N.E. St. James Drive  
Pt. St. Lucie, FL 34983

**(772) 785-5833**

Fax 785-5834

[oxbow@stlucieco.gov](mailto:oxbow@stlucieco.gov)

[www.stlucieco.gov/erd/oxbow](http://www.stlucieco.gov/erd/oxbow)

### Sandra Bogan

Manager

[bogans@stlucieco.gov](mailto:bogans@stlucieco.gov)

### Wren Underwood

Education Coordinator

[underwoe@stlucieco.gov](mailto:underwoe@stlucieco.gov)

### Misty Alderman

Education Coordinator

[aldermam@stlucieco.gov](mailto:aldermam@stlucieco.gov)

### Heidi Vestrem

Program & Volunteer  
Coordinator

[vestremh@stlucieco.gov](mailto:vestremh@stlucieco.gov)

### Veronica Berrones

Senior Staff Assistant

[berronev@stlucieco.gov](mailto:berronev@stlucieco.gov)

The Oxbow Eco-Center is dedicated to educational programs that foster an awareness and appreciation of the natural world, an understanding of ecosystems and sustainability, and a sense of stewardship toward Florida and all its inhabitants.

## ECO-HOLIDAYS and the ENCHANTED TRAIL

December 9 \* 12 pm - 4pm



Put a little magic into your holiday season by joining the Oxbow Eco-Center for Eco-Holidays and the Enchanted Trail. Pack the kids and get ready for some fun Saturday, December 9th, from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. as this delightful family event features holiday crafts, games, food, exhibitors and the highlight of the day, The Enchanted Trail.

A journey down The Enchanted Trail is an adventure you won't soon forget. A cast of colorful characters will greet you along the way and share messages from Mother Earth. You'll meet characters such as Golly the Gopher Tortoise, Mother Nature, and the wise old owl, as well as those Wild and Crazy "Fun Guys"! The Enchanted Trail is sponsored by The Drama Club of Treasure Coast High School. Come and see how they make nature come alive through outdoor theater.



Cost for this event is \$2 per person. Visitors are encouraged to get into the spirit and come in costume. Go ahead, let the child inside out for some fun! Come as your favorite animal, plant or fairy! We hope to see you there!!

For more information contact Heidi Vestrem at [vestremh@stlucieco.gov](mailto:vestremh@stlucieco.gov) or 772-785-5833.

Become a Florida Master Naturalist ... See Page 2 for details ...



# Building Green...Being Green



## Saturday "Wake Up Call" Lecture Series to Highlight Sustainable Living

The Oxbow is proud to announce a new season of its Saturday "Wake Up Call" Lecture Series! Whether building a new home or retrofitting an existing one, there are numerous things you can do to conserve energy and make your home more earth-friendly. Adding native plants to your lawn or community ponds can have a significant and positive impact on waterways and wildlife. Changing some of our actions or choices in our everyday lives can be simple yet have a dramatic impact. Our lectures will also include 'big-picture' topics such as resource efficient communities and alternative fuels.

The Oxbow's Wake Up Call Lectures are held the first Saturday of the month from November through April at 11:00 am. Lectures are free! We'll even provide free shade-grown/bird-friendly coffee if you bring your own mug!

**Susan Cerulean: Nov 4th @ 11:00 am**

Susan Cerulean, noted writer, naturalist and activist, will talk about making a difference in our human and natural communities by honing the contributions that each of us can offer, whether through gardening, teaching, science, or taking back our democracy. As a founding member of the Heart of the Earth "intentional" community in the Tallahassee region, she invites others to live more sustainably by taking an inventory of one's lifestyle choices such as housing, transportation, and purchases. Visit [www.heartoftheearth.org](http://www.heartoftheearth.org) or [www.susancerulean.com](http://www.susancerulean.com) for more information.

**Joe Gilio: Dec 2nd @ 11:00 am**

Environmental consultant Joe Gilio pioneered the successful establishment of storm water retention systems into lakes that mimic natural ecosystems. These more natural retention ponds, which include vegetation both around the pond and in the littoral zone, have proven to be effective at achieving very low nutrient concentration and an overall healthier system. His presentation will focus on the value of vegetation in retention ponds and how your lawn can affect the water quality of nearby wetlands such as the St. Lucie River.

## Florida Master Naturalist - Upland Habitats

Become a certified Master Naturalist!

The Oxbow is proud to announce its second offering of the Florida Master Naturalist Program. This time the focus is "Upland Habitats" where students will learn about the ecology, vegetation types, wildlife and conservation issues of hardwood forests, pinelands, scrub, dry prairie, rangelands and urban green spaces. The program consists of 40 hours of training, including classroom presentations, hands-on activities and field trips to interesting and diverse ecosystems. After students complete a final project, they will be certified by the University of Florida as a "Florida Master Naturalist" for Upland Habitats. Teachers can earn 40 CEUs upon completion.

Meeting times will be:

Friday nights: Jan 12, 19, 26, Feb 9 (6:00-8:30pm)  
Feb 16 final projects (6:00-10:00 pm)

Saturday field trips: Jan 13, 20, 27, Feb 10 (9:00-3:30 pm)

Cost of this program is \$200 and includes comprehensive notebooks, a certificate, patch and lapel pin. For more information or to register, visit [www.masternaturalist.com](http://www.masternaturalist.com) or contact Misty Alderman at [aldermam@stlucieco.gov](mailto:aldermam@stlucieco.gov).





## Volunteers in ACTION!

Volunteers have had a very busy summer here at the Oxbow Eco-Center! Whether it's teaching kids at summer camp, enjoying an ice cream sundae at the Ice Cream social, or kayaking down the north fork of the St. Lucie River volunteers make the Oxbow Eco-Center a special place!



## Volunteer Fun Days!

**Brown Bag Lunches** - October 3, November 7, December 12, Noon

Enjoy your lunch at the Oxbow's Brown Bag Lunch and see what goodies you can swap that Bologna sandwich and carrot sticks for... Join us at noon for the opportunity to learn a little, meet some new friends and find out the latest happenings at the Oxbow! Lunch will be followed by an educational presentation by one of the staff. Please RSVP.



## Masquerade Ball

October 28th, 7-9 pm

Was that a bat that just flew out of your mailbox? Nope, it was your special invitation to the Oxbow's first Masquerade Ball! Don't miss it!!



## Volunteering at the Oxbow

Want to join in the fun? Become a volunteer at the Oxbow! Join us for one of our Brown Bag Lunches on **October 3, November 7 and December 12 at Noon**. If you're planning on coming, please let us know at (772) 785-5842 or [vestremh@stlucieco.gov](mailto:vestremh@stlucieco.gov)

Or stop by anytime to say Hi! and pick up your Volunteer Toolkit.



**The Treasure Coast Environmental Education Cooperative (TCEEC)** is a non-profit organization made up of school teachers, scout leaders, environmental educators and scientists. TCEEC is dedicated to promoting environmental education in the Treasure Coast by providing support and resources to educators and fostering cooperation among organizations committed to environmental education.

TCEEC members are focused on the outdoor classroom concept. Our goal is to help school administrators and teachers understand the benefits of teaching outdoors (across the curriculum). Currently, we're developing an outdoor classroom kit that can be checked out by teachers.

TCEEC will soon publish an Environmental Education Directory for the Treasure Coast region. Copies will be available free of charge from TCEEC members or on our soon-to-be website, [www.TCEEC.org](http://www.TCEEC.org).

If you're interested in checking out our outdoor classroom kit, or would like to know about our upcoming Open House and monthly meetings, contact Wren Underwood at [underwoe@stlucieco.gov](mailto:underwoe@stlucieco.gov) or (772) 785-5842.



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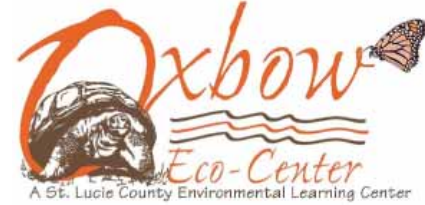
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5400 NE St. James Drive  
Port St. Lucie, FL 34983



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## Natural Jazz

**Oct. 21:** The Christian Tamburr Quartet

Join the Oxbow and Ft. Pierce Jazz and Blues Society in a special CD release concert by the critically acclaimed Christian Tamburr Quartet, a four-piece acoustic jazz group. You can preview Tamburr's smooth sound at [www.christiantamburr.com](http://www.christiantamburr.com).

Brought to you by the Ft. Pierce Jazz and Blues Society. Concert begins at 7:00 p.m., doors open at 6:30. Cost is \$18 for non-members and \$15 for members of Ft. Pierce Jazz & Blues Society.

**For more Information:** Call 772-460-JAZZ (5299) or email [info@jazzsociety.org](mailto:info@jazzsociety.org). See page 3 for ticket outlets.

## Nature at Night

1st Friday of the Month, January - April  
6:30 to 8:30 pm

**Friday, January 5th:**

**Owl Prowl & Bat Detecting**

The Oxbow kicks off the winter season of Nature at Night with a hootin' good time on Friday, January 5th at 6:30pm with an owl prowl and presentation by Busch Wildlife Sanctuary. Busch will have several of Florida's owl species on-hand as you learn about your nocturnal neighbors. An owl prowl night hike will follow the presentation while we search the night skies for some feathered friends.

In addition, "Batman" Ken Gioeli will lead us on an adventure in search of our favorite flying mammal- the Bat! These nocturnal nosherers can eat up to 3,000 insects each night and provide pesticide-free mosquito control.

Be sure to mark you calendars to join us on this exciting night of discovery!